

another

PRONOUN, ADJECTIVE, & ADVERB

MEANING & USE

Another is distinguished from *the other* in that, while the latter points to the remaining determinate member of a known series of two or more, *another* refers indefinitely to any further member of a series of indeterminate extent; it is not, therefore, applied to the determinate second of two.

PRONOUN

i. A second, further, or additional person or thing.

- i.1.** A second or further person or thing of the same type as that previously mentioned or known about. **?a1160-**

In this usage the person or thing denoted may be a specific one of its type, or any one of an indefinite number.

?a1160 He..begæt thare priuilegies, an of alle þe landes of pabbotrice, & an oþer of þe landes þe lien to þe circewican.

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (Laud MS.) (Peterborough contin.) anno 1137

...

2018 My mom lifted a steaming crepe from her crepe maker and began making another.

M. Hanna-Attisha, *What Eyes don't See* vi. 70

- i.2.** A person or thing of the same type as one with which it is explicitly contrasted or compared, the latter being denoted by *one* as a pronoun, or by a noun phrase having *one* or an indefinite article as a determiner.

See also *one another* at [one pron.](#) C.IV.11.

- i.2.a.** Denoting any one of an indefinite number of additional people or things. **a1300-**

a1300 Pis world fareþ hwilynde: hwenne on cumeþ, an-oþer gop.

in C. Brown, *English Lyrics of 13th Century* (1932) 69 (Middle English Dictionary)

...

1998 He can be in one city or country and the student can be in another.

Strad June 590/1

- i.2.b.** Denoting one of two people or things only.

c1350-

In this case *the other* is now more commonly used (cf. [other pron. & n. B.I.2a](#)).

In early use not always clearly distinct from sense [A.I.2a](#).

c1350 Ich haue als mychel strengþe þat I may stire þe hilles from o stede to **anoþer**.

Apocalypse St. John: A Version (Harley MS. 874) (1961) 13

...

2007 Twin-to-twin transfusion, a type of problem that occurs sometimes with twin babies, whereby blood flows from one twin to **another**.

Daily Telegraph 3 May 14/4

I.2.c. Denoting one of a series or set of people or things of the same kind, considered two by two. **a1400-**

See also *one and another* at [one pron. C.IV.9a](#).

The relationship between the two items indicated by the construction linking them is that which obtains between any two adjacent items in the series or set, so that, for example, *one after another* refers to a sequence in which each individual item follows the previous one. This usage differs, then, from that of senses [A.I.2a](#) and [A.I.2b](#) in that here neither *one* nor *another* refer to specific items in the series or set (which may be of a specified number or indefinite).

a1400 He þat loues his sone: he wonnes [Latin *assiduat*] to hym betyngis, þat is to saie: he sendus to hym continually somme betyngis, þat is to saie one after **an oþer**.

Twelve Profits of Tribulation (Royal MS.) in C. Horstmann, *Yorkshire Writers* (1896) vol. II. 59

...

2017 First Rolo went down, then Vinny, and then one after **another**, the boys started falling on purpose.

J. Fierro, *Gypsy Moth Summer* xvi. 198

II. Not this person or thing, not the same person or thing, a different person or thing.

II.3. A person other than oneself or one previously mentioned; a different person; someone or anyone else. **c1175-**

c1175 Þiff þatt tu ne kepptesst nohht. To takenn..Þatt wifmann..Þa sholde **an oþerr** cumenn forþ.

Ormulum (Burchfield transcript) l. 10410

...

2007 Mirror neurons become active both when a person performs an action and when a person observes that action being performed by **another**.

Science 1 June 1237/1

II.4. A different thing of the same type or kind; a different one.

c1275-

c1275 Pet dude Belin and his broðer ah nou þer is an-oðer.

(?a1200) Lagamon, *Brut* (Caligula MS.) (1963) l. 3632

...

2018 He had never heard about..the possibility of growing up with a particular gender assignment and then opting for another.

A. Stein, *Unbound* ii. 57

ADJECTIVE

(determiner)

I. Designating a second, further, or additional person or thing.

I.1.a. Designating an additional person or thing of the same type as one already mentioned or known about. c1175-

Originally designating a second of two things, but subsequently extended to refer to anything additional or remaining beyond those already considered.

c1175 Mann maðz unnderrstandenn þiss þet onn an operr wise.

Ormulum (Burchfield transcript) l. 10062

...

2021 Wear a cloth mask over any type of medical mask to..add another layer of protection.

New York Times (National edition) 7 March (At Home section) 8/6

I.1.b. With following number modifying a plural noun or noun phrase: designating an additional set of the specified thing. a1387-

a1387 He come wip þre hondred þowsand... Anoper hondred þowsande wente in to Galacia.

J. Trevisa, translation of R. Higden, *Polychronicon* (St. John's Cambridge MS.) (1871) vol. III. 301

...

2016 It looks as if we'll be getting another two cats. This place will be overrun with children and moggies.

@garethlpowell 12 November in *twitter.com* (accessed 19 Oct. 2018)

I.2. Designating a person or thing of the same type as one with which it is explicitly contrasted or compared, the latter being denoted by a noun phrase having *one* as a determiner. c1405-

c1405 It wol lasten perauenture from oon Estre day vnto another Estre day.
(c1390) G. Chaucer, *Parson's Tale* (Ellesmere MS.) (1877) 5552

...

2005 One dog remains sitting by the side of its handler while another dog works.
Dogs in Canada January 69/1

I.3. Esp. with a proper name: designating a person, event, etc., that is regarded as a second or repeated instance of the one specified in respect of likeness, character, or attributes. **1556-**

In this usage indicating someone or something's similarity to (but not identity with) the person, event, etc., specified.

1556 Eche one: an other my self to sey. And ech one to other: (I hope,) likewise knit.
J. Heywood, *Spider & Flie* liv. (following sig. Aav^v)

...

2011 It's been ten years and we still haven't been hit with another 9/11.
E. Stakelbeck, *Terrorist Next Door* ii. 45

II. Designating a different or distinct person or thing from the one previously mentioned or known about.

II.4. Used to emphasize the fact that this is not the same person or thing as that specified. **c1175-**

c1175 patt lif patt iss i muneclif lss shadd fra 3ure swinnkess. & itt iss all anoperr lif. & hehhre lif.
& bettre.
Ormulum (Burchfield transcript) l. 6296

...

2010 Plucking birds or gutting fish, yes, but a dead deer is another matter.
Church Times 19 November 17/5

II.5. Used to indicate a significant change or difference in the person or thing specified such that it (now) resembles a different person or thing. **a1382-**

In this usage the person or thing designated is the same in substance and identity but altered or different in effect or character.

a1382 þe spirit of þe lord schal lepyng in to þe.. & þou schalt ben chaungid in to an ooper man.
Bible (Wycliffite, early version) (Bodleian MS. 959) 1 Kings x. 6

...

2003 Now I just deny I'm famous. I go all zombie. I go into this trance and become **another** person.
Heat 29 March 37/2

II.6. Used with *than* or *from* to make an explicit distinction between two people or things of the same kind. Now sometimes considered *nonstandard*. **?1473-**

?1473 Hit is [*printed it*] sayd to me that ye haue **another** wyf than me.
W. Caxton, translation of R. Le Fèvre, *Recuyell of Historyes of Troye* (1894) vol. II. lf. 243^v

...

2011 This book addresses **another** aspect of orality than its artefacts.
D. Lloyd, *Irish Culture & Colonial Modernity 1800–2000* 4

irregular

† ADVERB

Differently, otherwise. *Obsolete*.

c1275–1500

In many instances difficult to distinguish from the pronoun with the sense 'a different thing' (see sense [A.II.4](#)).

c1275 **(?a1200)** ȝet ich ou sigge **on oþer** [c1300 *Otho MS.* an-oþer].
Lagamon, *Brut* (Caligula MS.) (1963) l. 364

...

a1500 **(c1340)** He spekis noght ane and thynkis **a nother**.
R. Rolle, *Psalter* (University College Oxford MS. 64) (1884) xiv. §3. 51

Phrases

P.1. **one with another, one — with another**, and variants.

P.1.a. † Together, all together; all alike. *Obsolete*.

?a1425–1869

?a1425 þei ben pryued of me and of my souereyn charite, whiche seyntis sauoren and taasten **oon wiþ anopir**.
translation of Catherine of Siena, *Orcherd of Syon* (Harley MS.) (1966) 209 (Middle English Dictionary)

...

1869 There must have been three-score of us, take **one with one another**.

P.1.b. Taken together so as to calculate an average; on average. Frequently in **to take one with another, one taken with another**, etc. Now *archaic* and *rare*. **1535-**

See also *one time with another* at **time** *n., int., & conj.* Phrases P.5b.iii(b).

1535 They put noþing yn the boke of acompt but iij^s y^t is one wek with anoþer & he gose to marked lyghtly, one wek with anoþer, iij tymes aweke.

J. Basset, *Letter in Lisle Papers* (P.R.O.: SP 3/1) f. 65

...

1984 Taken one with another sperms give no more than two ton of oil, whereas a good Greenlander gives ten times as much.

P. O'Brian, *Far Side of World* (1992) iii. 96

archaic

P.2. *colloquial*. **you're another!** and variants: used to apply in return an accusation to the person who first makes it (cf. **tu quoque** *n.*); also used humorously as a meaningless or vaguely contemptuous retort. **a1556-**

a1556 If it were an other but thou, it were a knaue. *M. Mery.* Ye are an other your selfe, sir.

N. Udall, *Ralph Roister Doister* (?1566) iii. v. sig. F.ij

...

2008 'Bastard!' said Cameron. 'And you're another!' said Skillit.

J. Drake, *Flint & Silver* (2009) xlii. 287

colloquial and slang

P.3. **another time:** at a later date, not now, *esp.* in response to a question, or to dismiss or delay a conversation. Also as a question: 'shall we do this at another time?' **1640-**

1640 *Scon.* Mr. Doctor I saw you not before: I am sorry sir, you will be gone so soone, I should have chang'd some sillables with you. *Doct.* Another time sweet Mr. Sconce.
H. Glapthorne, *Hollander* ii. sig. Civ^v

...

2013 [*In response to* Spinning is evil. I will be heading down at some point. Squash this week?] I don't think I will have time this week... Another time?
@KDawg25 8 July in *twitter.com* (accessed 19 Oct. 2018)

P.4. Originally U.S. **another time, another place** (also sometimes **another place, another time**): indicating a remote or distant set of circumstances, often used wistfully. **1852-**

1852 No sorrow crossed the sunshine of her young life while she dwelt here; the shadows which passed over it were of another time, another place—she never recalled the one, or visited the other.

E. H. M., *Queen's Fate* xi, in *Evergreen* (New York) June 169/1

...

2017 In another time, another place, one of the channel islands during WW2 for instance, he definitely would have collaborated with the Nazis.
@pete_citizen 14 October in *twitter.com* (accessed 11 Oct. 2018)

U.S. English

ETYMOLOGY

Summary

Formed within English, by compounding.

Etymons: **a** *adj.*, **other** *pron.* & *n.*, **other** *adj.*

In use as pronoun < *an*, variant of **a** *adj.* (compare **one** *adj.*) + **other** *pron.* & *n.*

In use as adjective < *an*, variant before a vowel sound of **a** *adj.* + **other** *adj.*

With use as adverb compare earlier **other** *adv.*²

Notes

Possible currency in Old English.

In **Old English** **other** *adj.* and **other** *pron. & n.* are commonly used without a preceding determiner in senses equivalent to **another** *pron., adj., & adv.*, and use without determiner continues in **Middle English**; compare **other** *adj.* A.5 and **other** *pron. & n.* B.I.6 and also **other** *pron. & n.* B.I.7. However, use with preceding **one** *adj.* is attested in **Old English**, both for **other** *adj.* and for **other** *pron. & n.* The original and expected senses of such a collocation are 'one second (person or thing)', 'one other (person or thing)', with the first element functioning as numeral, but some attestations of **Old English** *ān oþer* can be interpreted as showing semantic weakening of the first element similar to **another** *pron., adj., & adv.*; compare **one** *adj.* A.V.14. It is impossible to determine whether the phrase sometimes shows phonological reduction of the first element, as this would not be reflected in the spelling; however, in *ān oþer* both elements would originally carry some degree of stress. Although **another** *pron., adj., & adv.* could thus be interpreted as partly arising from earlier *one other*, with phonological reduction of the first element, it seems more likely that the first element is to be interpreted as the article **a** *adj.* (which was itself developed from the numeral), because **another** *pron., adj., & adv.* does not appear to become more regularly established until the 14th cent. Compare also **tother** *pron. & adj.*

Compare the following attestations of **Old English** *ān oþer*, used attributively as determiner, and as pronoun:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| eOE | He þonan afor, & his fierd gelædde on an oþer fæstre land, & þær gewunedon oþ niht.
translation of Orosius, <i>History</i> (British Library MS. Add.) (1980) ii. v. 46
... |
| IOE | Siððon com an oþre ærcebiscop to Cantwarbyrig seo wæs gehaten Theodorus.
<i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> (Laud MS.) (Peterborough interpolation) anno 656 |

Uses of *other* with *a* in *Middle English*.

In earlier use in **Middle English** not clearly distinguished from uses of **other** *adj., pron., n., & adv.*² with preceding indefinite article, in which the two elements do not form a compound.

Later parallel uses with *one* as first element.

Compare equivalent uses of stressed forms of **one** *adj.* with **other** *adj., pron., n., & adv.*² and **nother** *adj.*² & *pron.*² in **Middle English** and **Older Scots**, for example *ane oþer*, *on oþer*, *onoþer*, *o noþere*. With the form *an oþerr* in *Ormulum* compare the discussion at **a** *adj.*

Form types and analysis of individual forms.


With the **β** forms, which imply metanalysis (see **N** *n.*), compare **nother** *adj.*² & *pron.*² Uses where *a nother* could result from uncertain scribal or editorial word division have been placed at this

entry rather than at **nother** *adj.*² & *pron.*²

The **y forms** apparently show alteration of the second element by association with **nouther** *pron.*

PRONUNCIATION

BRITISH ENGLISH

/ə'nuðə/ 
uh-NUDH-uh

U.S. ENGLISH

/ə'nəðər/ 
uh-NU-dhur

FORMS

Variant forms

(Word division in Old English and Middle English examples frequently reflects editorial choices of modern editors of texts, rather than the practice of the manuscripts.)

α.

early Middle English	an oðer, an-oðer, anoðer, an oþerr (<i>Ormulum</i>), an oððer, a oðer (transmission error)
Middle English	annoder, an oder, anoder, anodir, anodre, anodyr, an ooper, an othar, an oþer, an-other, an-oþer, anoper, an oþere, another, anoþere, an othir, an oþir, anothir, anopir, anothire, an othre, an oþre, anoþre, an oþur, an-oþur, anoþur, anothyr, anothyre, an-oyer, anoyer, anoyr, anoyther, anoythir
Middle English-1600s	an other
Middle English-	another
1800s-	annuver (<i>regional</i>), annuvver (<i>regional</i>), anuvver (<i>regional</i>)

English regional

1900s-	anither, anudher (<i>Cumberland</i>)
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U.S. regional (chiefly in representations of African-American speech)

1800s	anoder, anudder, anuder, anurrer, anuther
1900s-	anether, annudder, anu'rr, ernurther

Scottish

pre-1700	anodr, an other, anothis, an uther, another, an vther, a uthir (probably transmission error)
pre-1700; 1800s (<i>Aberdeen</i>)	anoder
pre-1700; 1700s–	another
1700s–	anither
1800s	anidder (<i>northern</i>), anider (<i>Aberdeen</i>)

Irish English

1800s	anoor (<i>Wexford</i>)
1800s–	anither (<i>northern</i>)

β.

early Middle English	an noðer
Middle English	an noþer, an-nother, an noþere, an nothis, an noþir, a noder, a-noder, a-noderr, a-nodr, a-nodre, a nodther, a nodur, a-nodur, a-nodyr, a noþer, a noþer, a-nother, a-noþer, a nothere, a noþere, a-nothere, a nothis, a noþir, a-nothis, a-noþir, a noþire, a-nothire, a noþur, a-noþur, a-noþure, a nothyr, a-nothyr, a-nothyre, a notir, a noyer, a-noyer, a-noyir, a noyr
Middle English–1500s	an nother
Middle English–1600s; 1700s–1800s (<i>regional</i>)	a nother
1600s	i nother

U.S. regional

1900s–	a nuther
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Scottish

pre-1700	a-nodere, a nother, a nothis, a nuthir
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Y.

Middle English

anowder (*northern*)

Scottish

pre-1700

a nowthir

Irish English(*northern*)

1900s-

anawther

FREQUENCY

another is one of the 500 most common words in modern written English. It is similar in frequency to words like *area*, *need*, *place*, and *too*.

It typically occurs about 400 times per million words in modern written English.

another is in frequency band 7, which contains words occurring between 100 and 1,000 times per million words in modern written English. [More about OED's frequency bands](#)

Frequency of *another*, *pron.*, *adj.*, & *adv.*, 1750–2010

* Occurrences per million words in written English

Historical frequency series are derived from Google Books Ngrams (version 2), a data set based on a corpus of several million books printed in English between 1500 and 2010. The Ngrams data has been cross-checked against frequency measures from other corpora, and re-analysed in order to handle homographs and other ambiguities.

The overall frequency for a given word is calculated by summing frequencies for the main form of the word, any plural or inflected forms, and any major spelling variations.

Frequency of *another*, *pron.*, *adj.*, & *adv.*, 2017–2023

* Occurrences per million words in written English

Modern frequency series are derived from a corpus of 20 billion words, covering the period from 2017 to the present. The corpus is mainly compiled from online news sources, and covers all major varieties of World

English.

Smoothing has been applied to series for lower-frequency words, using a moving-average algorithm. This reduces short-term fluctuations, which may be produced by variability in the content of the corpus.

COMPOUNDS & DERIVED WORDS

Sort by

anotherwhile, adv. a1425-1868

At another time. Often paired with onewhile, adv. A.1.

another gate, adv. & adj. a1450-1889

In another way, differently. Also: elsewhere. Cf. othergates, adv. Scottish and English regional in later use.

another-gaines, adj. a1586-1826

Of another kind or character; different; = anothergates, adj.

another country, n. 1597-

A situation, condition, or state of affairs very different in nature or character from one's usual experience; something which is unfamiliar...

anothergates, adj. 1604-

Of another kind or character; different.

'nother, pron.³ & adj.³ a1635-

one 'nother = one another at one, pron. C.IV.11.

anotherguise, adj. 1635-1876

Of another kind or character; different; = anothergates, adj.

another place, n. 1716-

The House of Lords as regarded by the House of Commons, and vice versa; (hence, more widely) one house of any bicameral legislature as regarded by...

anor, pron. 1826-

As a graphic abbreviation in the titles of legal cases, preceded by and: one other; = another, pron. A.II.3. Cf. ors., pron.

anotherkins, adj. 1855-

Of another kind or character; different; = anothergates, adj.

A. N. Other, n. 1868-

A formula substituted for: (the name of) an unidentified or as yet unspecified person or group.

another, n. 1917-

Another one.

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 8/25/2023